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Rodríguez Marín thinks that Alemán did not write the subtitle, but that his words are due to a lapse of memory: "Trascordábase Mateo Alemán en cuanto á lo primero, pues no llamó *Atalaya de la vida humana* sino á la parte segunda de su novela; pero en lo otro decía fielmente lo sucedido: que no bien salieron á correr mundo los ejemplares de la primera edición, *el Pícaro* llamaron al protagonista y al libro cuantos saborearon la deleitable historia."¹

In the introduction to *The "Sucesos" of Mateo Alemán* I mentioned an explanation of Alemán's statement given me by Dr. F. De Haan,² whose words I now quote in full: "The explanation of Alemán's remark would seem to be that he had written on the title page of his ms. '*Atalaya*,' etc., and that the publishers removed this in order to make the book's title sound more attractive to the public."

Perhaps a step in the direction of settling this question may be taken by reference to the *Privilegio* found in the copy of the first edition of *Guzmán de Alfarache* owned by the Hispanic Society of America. This *Privilegio*, printed under the rubric *El Rey*, contains these words: "nos fue fecha relacion, que vos auia des cõpuesto vn libro, intitulado Primera parte de la vida de Guzman de Alfarache, atalaya de la vida humana, del qual ante los de nuestro Consejo hizistes presentacion." Apparently the title was quoted exactly from the manuscript in hand, but if we turn to the title page, we find it reads simply *Primera parte de Guzman de Alfarache*. When nearly a year later (March 4, 1599) a copy of the book fresh from the press reached the hands of Gonçalo de la Vega the escribano, in order that he might make out the Tassa, he says that he has seen "un libro intitulado *Primera parte de Guzman de Alfarache*."

The word '*Pícaro*' occurs in the *Aprobación* given by Fray Diego Davila on Jan. 13, 1598, where he refers to the book as *Primera parte del Pícaro Guzman de Alfarache*, and also in the dedication in which Alemán himself speaks

of the "*desechado Pícaro*." The three other editions of 1599, as well as several of those that follow, insert the word *pícaro* on the title page, much to the regret of the author.

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THE *Sagittary* OF *Othello*

The commentators say that *Sagittary* of *Othello* I, i, 173; I, iii, 136, is either the name of an inn, or the official residence of the army and navy commanders in the Arsenal at Venice. The second suggestion is impossible from references in Scene ii. *Othello* is just outside *Desdemona's* hiding place, "being not at his lodging to be found." He refers also not to an inn but to "a house": "I will but spend a word here in the house." This house is precisely in the *Sagittary*, for *Brabantio* is brought there, true to appointment made in Scene ii. As regards Scene iii, the Ancient would be no better qualified than anyone else to find the Arsenal, or a public inn.

Sagittary is simply an Anglicized form of *Frezzaria*, 'street of the arrow-makers,' next to the *Merceria* the most important street in the San Marco quarter of Venice. Any description of Venice would have furnished Shakespeare with the term.

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CHAUCER'S SERPENT-PIT

To the numerous references to pits filled with serpents collected by Professor Tatlock (*Mod. Lang. Notes*, XXIX, 99-100) to illustrate Chaucer's legend of Cleopatra, may be added another, which occurs in many collections of *Miracles of Our Lady*. In the Vendome *Miracles de la B. V. M.*, preserved in a manuscript of the thirteenth century this tale bears the title: "De quodam qui uidit puteum plenum serpentibus."¹ In this case the person who beholds this terrifying vision is a young man from Germany on a visit to Clairvaux. Ac-

¹ *Discursos leídos ante la Real Academia Española el día 27 de octubre de 1907*. Sevilla, 1907, p. 24.

² *Revue Hispanique*, no. 68, page 359.

cording to the usual account, however, the vision is seen by a nun who was on the point of returning to the worldly life. In Mussafia's lists of *Marienlegenden* (*Sitzungsb. Wien. Akad.* 113 and 115) this story is registered in the following ms. collections: Paris Bibl. Nat. 14463 (XII cent.) and 12593 (XIII cent.), Copenhagen Thott 26 (XII-XIII cent.), Leipzig 821 (XIII cent.) and 819 (XIII cent.), Cambray 739, Paris Bibl. Nat. 17491 (XIII cent.) and 18134 (XIII cent.), and Charleville 168 (XIII cent.). It occurs also in B. M. Addit. ms. 33956 (XIV cent.), fol. 72 (Ward, *Cat. of Rom.*, II. 673).

I should hardly venture to point to this Marian legend as a source for Chaucer, though it may appropriately find a place beside the other serpent pits cited by Professor Tatlock, and for that matter it is a story which Chaucer is much more likely to have known than many of those to which attention has been called.

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BRIEF MENTION

With their *Selections from Montaigne*, edited by C. H. C. Wright, of Harvard, and their *Pages choisies de Calvin*, edited by Daniel Jordan, of Columbia, Messrs. D. C. Heath and Co. have filled a serious gap in the series of American text-books for the study of French classic literature. These two volumes on the sixteenth century are carefully prepared and well edited, the selections are wisely made, and while sufficient to give the reader a fair idea of the author's style, are not so voluminous as to deter him from their perusal. The *Calvin* is supplied with a good glossary, the *Montaigne* with full notes; the retention of *i* for *j* in the latter text is to be regretted. The editors and publishers are to be thanked for having put these texts within reach of the American student.

M. P. B.

Notwithstanding the numerous texts dealing with one aspect or another of German *Realien*, there has hitherto been a notable lack of a book suited for more serious study in upper college

classes. This need has now been very well met by the publication of *Ein Charakterbild von Deutschland*, compiled and edited by M. B. Evans and Elisabeth Merhaut (Boston, D. C. Heath & Co., 1914). A large number of sketches, gathered and pieced together from a still larger number of authors, treat such topics as The German Language, German Cities, Recent Political History, Form of Government, Trade and Industry, Achievements in Science, Philosophy, Literature, and Art, German Education, Sport. In the main, these subjects are, within the limits imposed, treated in a highly satisfactory manner. The piecing process has, to be sure, left seams here and there. Thus there is no adequate motivation for the "abnormals" of p. 108, l. 21, and under the heading "Philosophie" the remark cited from Bartels on p. 152, ll. 18-21, is clearly out of place. In his annotation the editor has exercised great reserve, properly so, in view of the multitude of things that invited comment. In some cases this reserve is perhaps carried too far. No one not already familiar with the facts could, for example, understand the allusions in the first paragraph of "Der deutsch-französische Krieg" (p. 94), nor will any one but a reader of Nietzsche make much out of "Herren- und Sklavenmoral" or of "revaluation of all values," which is the editor's comment on "Umwertung aller Werte" (p. 152). In many respects the book is refreshingly modern, so in its treatment of the Berlin stage. The opening of the municipal University of Frankfurt (p. 234) has, however, been anticipated by half a year, while, on the other hand, the "Königliche Bibliothek" of p. 17, l. 1, has for some time past been replaced by the new monumental structure on Unter den Linden. The map that accompanies the volume is inadequate, as the editor himself seems to have recognized.

In his *Orígenes del Romancero*¹ R. Menéndez Pidal reviews Foulché-Delbosc's criticism of his theories in regard to the Spanish ballad (cf. *M. L. N.*, XXIX, p. 32). While the review is not free from the personal element inaugurated in the original discussion, the important issues are set forth in a clear-cut manner that is in harmony with the author's previous works on the Spanish epic. In addition to correcting various errors in Foulché-Delbosc's pamphlet, Menéndez Pidal reaffirms and elucidates his own views on the fundamental ques-

¹ Ed. H. Isenard, Orleans, 1888, p. 48.

¹ *Revista de Libros* (Madrid: Vicente Rico), Enero, 1914, pp. 3-14.